

# CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

## MINUTES

April 8, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

*"Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors."*

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Phil Teller, Jill Schmidt, Heidi Houghton, Rebecca LaBrunerie, Latha Sambamurti, Kate Cochran, Roy Leban (arrived at 7:05 p.m.); Youth Advocates Joscelyn Doleac (arrived at 7:05 p.m.) and Nicole Rollofson

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Kay Tarapolsi

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:** Doe Stahr

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## **AGENDA**

***Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.***

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Phil Teller called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) minutes of March 11, 2004 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 3, V.G., second bullet: Change to read: "Without additional outside sources, all Performing Arts would have to be scaled down. Safeco..."

**Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of March 11, 2004 as amended by:**

Commissioner Schmidt

**Second by:** Commissioner Houghton

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

### **III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

- Visual Arts:
  - Move: Doe Stahr Presentation — Volunteer Arts Awards
- Performing / Literary Arts:
  - Remove: D. Redmond Lights

### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS**

#### **A. Chair/Vice Chair**

As the new Chairperson, Phil Teller proposed new changes in the RAC meeting format:

- Commissioners were asked to “have more fun, eat, laugh, and enjoy the meeting.”
- Institute a “theme night” where at the end of each meeting, Teller would choose a Commissioner to announce the theme for next month’s meeting.
- End meetings sooner to have time for general discussion and correspondence handouts.
- Commissioners were asked to stand up when they have something to say, and then sit when finished. If sitting, then they must be listening. This will eliminate crosstalk and deviation, and would enable the meeting to end sooner. The Chairperson will recognize in turn those who stand to speak.

Teller noted that Commissioners could make a motion to recall any of his proposed changes at any time. Commissioners agreed to try the new proposed format and adjust accordingly.

#### **B. Continuing Business – Task List**

Tarapolsi (not present at this meeting) emailed the task list for Commissioners to review and mark their completed items.

#### **C. Annual Report**

Schmidt reported that due to her being out of town the Annual Report was not completed. Also, the artist who had originally offered to design the report is too busy. Skillingstead reported she has compiled the quarterly report information; the annual information would be forthcoming. She stated she has contacted Kristi in the City’s print shop, which would do the report the same as last year. Possibly a graphic artist would be hired to design it. LaBrunerie requested to see the report in its entirety before it goes to the print shop.

Houghton suggested considering making the report smaller to reduce time and cost, since the only requirement is that it must be presented to City Council. Schmidt reminded, however, that the report is also used as an important information and communication piece to other entities and agencies.

#### **D. Web Site Discussion**

Leban and Skillingstead met with City staff Marta Hurwitz and Karen Botkin and reported the following:

- The web site will take one year to accomplish, due to conflicting ideas/goals; Leban was confident that a satisfactory design would eventually be produced.
- There is no money to fix the entire site.
- Skillingstead and Leban will meet with Karen in the next two weeks to discuss structure.
- Leban will do some work on the structure (he is limited without access to the City's internal files).
- Leban will present ideas to Commissioners on what can be done and get RAC's input on priorities at a future meeting.

***Teller will include time in the next RAC meeting for discussion.*** Leban suggested 15-20 minutes, but if it looks like a larger topic, then he recommended it be a retreat topic. ***Leban will bring an outline next month; he will also email it to Commissioners so they can come prepared to the May meeting.***

Schmidt noted some of the information can be used for RCTV and/or *Focus* magazine also. Leban clarified that updating the site is a staff resource issue and that would not change. Schmidt suggested incorporating a performance maintenance schedule, e.g., a timeline of performances. Leban affirmed he also had a similar idea.

Skillingstead reported she spoke with Marta on how the content should appear on the site so as to make it easier for the user. The web site would be largely reformatted.

***Commissioners will give their ideas to Leban, as well as look for photo opportunities.***

#### **E. Core Values Discussion**

***LaBrunerie will put together an outline for discussion on Core Values for another meeting.*** She noted number five out of the six core values is up for discussion. Teller suggested discussing the topic via email, since next month's meeting would be televised.

#### **F. Artist Invitation to RAC Meeting(s)**

Commissioners discussed inviting area artists to the televised meeting as audience members observing an RAC meeting. Schmidt added that the purpose would be to find out from them what they want. They would provide Commissioners a question or agenda ahead of

time, so Commissioners could ask questions of them during the meeting. Doleac asked if student artists could be invited; Schmidt affirmed.

Cochran started she would not be comfortable inviting artists just to give them opportunity to talk; she did support the idea of asking them to prepare a question. Leban proposed a 10-20 minute open discussion time on a topic, versus giving them unlimited presentation time. Teller's thoughts were to provide artists an opportunity to know RAC and Commissioners would have an opportunity to speak to them. Schmidt and Houghton advocated that "it would make good TV." Schmidt added it would show the viewing audience about the RAC.

Doe Stahr, artist, suggested inviting artists to an open house instead, not a televised meeting (too much pressure, she said). Also, she thought that some artists would "seize the mic" and dominate the meeting.

Skillingstead proposed inviting artists whom Commissioners already know to the RAC meeting, then offer a meeting in the future with a structured format. She cautioned to keep in mind it might make the meeting longer.

**Motion for approval to extend invitations to artists (known by Commissioners) from surrounding areas to RAC meetings by:** Commissioner Schmidt

**Second by:** Commissioner Houghton

**Discussion:** Leban noted artists are always welcome, this is just an explicit invitation—a change is not really being made. Schmidt agreed, however, now RAC is making the effort versus being just understood.

**Motion carried:** 7-0 unanimous

#### **G. Set Annual Planning Retreat Date**

Commissioners discussed what agenda topics might warrant discussion at a retreat. Schmidt suggested a limited topic, e.g., core values. LaBrunerie thought June would be a good time since a report from the Cultural Congress would be recent.

***Commissioners decided to have the retreat June 7, and include these discussion topics: (1) Cultural Congress discussion for half the time, then (2) discuss the rest of the six core values.***

The following retreat locations were considered:

- Outdoors by the water at Idylwood Park, with the house reserved in case of rain (Leban would provide a 100-foot extension chord, or whatever power would be needed for the tape recorder, if held outside.)
- Idylwood House (eat on balcony)
- City Hall lunchroom
- City Hall outside on the municipal campus close to the River Trail

- Senior Center
- Teller's residence

*Skillingstead will investigate availability of the above. Commissioners will make a decision based on what options are available per Skillingstead's research.*

## **VI. Performing/Literary Arts**

### **A. Project(s) Status**

#### **1. Write Out Loud!**

Skillingstead reported that RASP's *Write Out Loud! 2004* event planning is moving forward smoothly and going well. RASP will do a postcard mailing next week with their schedule, highlighting the Haiku workshop at the library.

Commissioners were invited to the event's teen slam on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Fire House Teen Center. The closing night event will be held at Victor's Coffee Shop.

#### **2. Winter Performance Series Report**

Skillingstead reported the expense/income figures from the Winter Performance Series would be in the quarterly report. Although she did not have the figures yet, she was certain that the series paid for itself. Sambamurti reported the series went well, and was well attended. The expense and income report will be ready when all the bills are in, but she also believed RAC did okay financially.

Leban referenced a complaint from a citizen who attended the *theatre simple* "52 Pick-Up." They were uncomfortable with the profanity and complained that RAC needed to do better with advertising. Leban believed RAC had a responsibility to inform the public. Skillingstead clarified that the families with children chose to stay. The two families who brought children were warned at the door before they entered by those selling tickets. Cochran advocated contacting the offended party to apologize via a phone call. *Skillingstead will follow up.*

LaBrunerie asked Commissioners to decide if RAC wants to continue with controversial performances. Discussion ensued:

- King County Performance Network did not have the disclaimer language in their promotional materials.
- RAC is presenting it, but King County is paying for it.
- RAC had previously decided that as long as the information was publicized as for mature audiences 13+ years, it would be acceptable.
- RAC needs to decide what image it wants to portray.

- Start at a later time those events not for younger children (maybe 10 pm).
- Talk to other arts commissions who presented the show to get their additional input.
- In RAC's relationship with King County Performance Network, it needs to be negotiated that RAC has editorial control over shows the City presents; protect the way it is publicized on all fronts.
- Tell King County that it was a problem for RAC and change it for next year.
- Preview the show to see if it should be considered or not; read the script beforehand.
- Art is controversial and expression is a right; however people have a choice.
- Be careful about not taking on a censorship role; rather, play to community standards (what theatres are playing), be aware of feedback, and respond with better advertising (not censorship).
- Recognize lines to cross (level of offensiveness), and what the people of the City of Redmond expect.
- Set a limit; preview by adults and students; remember that Redmond is a family-oriented City.
- Discussion topic for the RAC retreat as part of core values: What is our image?
- Redmond has singles and young married couples that do appreciate adult entertainment; cannot judge a performance by one family complaint.

Commissioners liked the idea of a later show time for adult shows as a good solution to this issue.

### **3. Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed 4/3/04 prior to 4/8/04 RAC meeting)**

Committee members Latha P. Sambamurti and Pat T. Pattabhiraman

- **Winter Performance Series (WPS'04)**

WPS'04 concluded with *52 Pick-Up* on March 27, 04. There were about 35-40 attendees altogether. Attendance could have been better—this was the lowest count among the WPS'04 shows.

- **Arts in the Parks (2004) (AitP'04)**

Continued to communicate with artists regarding scheduling, fees and so forth.

The scheduling of the artists on available performance dates has been completed. Eleven artists/artist groups have been scheduled to perform on Sundays and Wednesdays.

A twelfth one, smooth jazz artist Darren Motamedy, has been proposed to the Redmond Town Center (RTC) for performance there; RTC folks are in dialogue with him for finalizing his show.

Furthermore, we are working with the Redmond Teen Center for supporting a DJ at their Annual Skateboard fiesta in July. It will be counted and advertised as an AITP event.

- **Funding (for AITP'04)**

Cultural Tourism grant: We submitted an application for funding for the 2004 Arts in the Parks. Other sponsorship applications are in preparation.

- **Marketing**

We completed marketing of *theater simple's 52 Pick Up* show (that took place on March 27).

- **Derby Days**

- We are in advanced stages of dialogue with 2-3 groups of Bhangra dancers and drummers in the Seattle/Eastside area to accompany the Arts Commissioners on the Derby Days parade. Bhangra is an extremely vibrant, lively and high-energy folk/popular dance in colorful costumes from the Punjab region of India.
- The idea of a booth of a mehndi (applying decorative patterns of henna on the palm) artist for Derby Days, proposed at the last meeting, turns out to be impractical. The artist is willing to spend a maximum of 4 hours only at the booth, while Derby Days organizers require the booth to be staffed 10 am through 9 pm.

## **B. Funding/Marketing**

### **1. Arts in the Parks**

Sambamurti reported that the Arts in the Parks 2004 event planning is in progress. The Cultural Tourism Grant was applied for and RAC will receive \$2,000, which is anticipated to be approved by City Council on April 20. A business letter was submitted to U.S. Bank; other businesses will receive letters in two weeks.

Skillingstead reported that the City has 99% assurance they will receive funding from Microsoft. *Skillingstead gave the contact person's name to LaBrunerie who will follow up communication with them.*

Sambamurti reported that marketing for the event will start after the schedule is established, contracts are final, and brochures printed.

## **C. New Business**

None

#### **D. Staff Reports**

None

### **VII. Arts Education Committee**

#### **A. Project(s) Status**

- Cochran reported the committee was not able to meet, but will next week. At that time the committee will talk about a new grant, and changing the day of the committee meeting, possibly to the first or last Monday of the month.
- Skillingstead reported that Una McAlinden has not yet finished editing the curriculum book. Leban volunteered to help with editing the K-2nd book.
- Schmidt reported she spoke with State Representative Ross Hunter at the Fire Station Plaza and Art dedication, and that he is considering the best approach to Terri Bergeson regarding the curriculum book.
- Houghton proposed to sell the lesson plans by year and charging \$20. Cochran was in favor of the idea. Leban noted it would not be difficult to separate the lessons, however, the Table of Contents were all done by hand and that would not be easy to change; a "K" book would be easier to create. Teller suggested leaving the Table of Contents in so they can see what else is available.

#### **B. Youth Advocate Report**

Doleac and Rollofson reported on their high school Drama Fest. Doleac won first place as Director of her show. Schmidt asked the advocates to let Commissioners know ahead of time next year if they could be a judge at the event. Doleac, a senior, will be graduating and leaving the Commission to attend Winfield College in McMinneville, OR, majoring in education.

The Advocates offered *Bye Bye Birdie* tickets for sale to Commissioners. Shows are May 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 21, all performances starting at 7:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are reduced for family night, May 20: four tickets for \$30. Otherwise pre-sale tickets will be \$8 (student) and \$11. Prices at the door: \$10 (student) and \$14. Schmidt asked Advocates to email Commissioners so they could order tickets through them. Rollofson circulated a sign up sheet for those interested in buying tickets for the dates showing.

#### **C. Staff Reports**

None



## **VIII. Visual Arts Committee**

### **A. Project(s) Status**

#### **1. Volunteer Arts Award – Proposal**

Schmidt invited all to view past years Volunteer Arts Awards at City Hall and ORSCC locations, noting the arts awards are a very nice way to build the City's art collection.

Doe Stahr, potter artist, brought and described a sample of her art award proposal that would be given to the volunteer recipients, as well as the one for the City:

- Ceramic bowl with a wide rim
- Text relating to the name of the person and the award around the outside rim, pressed in relief letters (not painted)
- Inside bowl is painted with color and then carving through that to get the logo for Redmond
- Sculpture of a 3D mask inside the bowl
- A Plexiglas cut in a circle over the top of the bowl, sealed in from the edge grooves
- Can be hung on a wall without obvious signs of support

Skillingstead noted the City logo cannot be altered, e.g., integrated into the art. Leban suggested the logo could be etched in the Plexiglas. Staff clarified that the logo does not have to be on the award at all; it can go on a plaque, or on the back of the piece. LaBrunerie supported letting Stahr have creativity in the piece. Stahr will diminish the logo's stature.

**Motion for approval of Doe Stahr as the contract artist for the 2004 Volunteer Arts Awards by:** Commissioner Schmidt  
**Second by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie  
**Motion carried:** 7-0 unanimous

Skillingstead will get the contract to Stahr.

#### **2. Outdoor Sculpture Garden**

Tarapolsi reported by email that the deadline for the sculpture garden call for artists was March 31; five entries were received. Although the return was somewhat disappointing, she reasoned that between now and the steering committee meeting, Teller and she would come up with the rest of the artists.

Tarapolsi did a display at the Redmond Public Library. She invited all to see it and give her feedback of their impressions.

### **3. Metro Bus Shelter Artist Recommendations**

Schmidt reported that nine artists have been chosen out of the Artist Made Building Parts (AMBP) catalog to make up the selection committee that will recommend a bus shelter artist. The pilot shelter would likely happen (but is not certain) by the pizza building location.

Skillingstead reported that Metro is doing the bus shelter project with the City's Planning Department budget of \$8,000 designated for the art project portion. They hope this pilot will set the tone for the possibility of the City's remaining shelters.

Skillingstead clarified that it is a Metro-run panel that will select the artist and work with City staff administering the contract. It is not really a RAC project, rather a City project. Houghton requested a RAC member be on the selection committee.

*Skillingstead will investigate this possibility.*

### **4. Visual Arts Committee Meeting**

Schmidt is on a panel committee for the Cultural Congress, whose meeting conflicts with the April regularly scheduled Visual Arts Committee meeting. She suggested foregoing the VAC April meeting. If there were any pressing issues, they could be discussed online.

### **5. Fire Station Plaza Dedication Report**

Schmidt reported the Fire Station 11 plaza and sculpture dedication was very successful and well attended by fire station personnel, Parks' employees, the artist, the sculpture model's family, City Council members, and the public. It was a very positive experience. Many people there had ownership with the sculpture and plaza. Schmidt believed the sculpture itself gives all the right messages. Commissioners were commended for their part in the process.

An injury was incurred by a boy playing on the sculpture during the dedication. Schmidt did not believe the sculpture was a safety issue. She reasoned that the incident probably happened due to the large number of people present. The fire personnel will seek to establish a positive relationship with the kids that play at The Edge Skate Plaza, instructing respect to the Fire Station plaza and artwork.

Schmidt reported the Fire Station personnel were very pleased with the plaza and sculpture. They hosted a barbecue to all those City employees and Art Commissioners involved with the project. Five Commissioners attended.

Skillingstead reported there was good press coverage at the dedication event. She distributed copies of the news articles to Commissioners. Houghton stated she saw four or five photographers present providing good publicity. Skillingstead handed out a

photo collage of pictures taken by graphic artist, Craig Brissey at the event. She will send these photos to an editor who will be publishing an article on the event in a national advisory newsletter to municipalities.

Leban stated the plaza/sculpture was a good accomplishment, and noted it is compelling from the street when driving by. Schmidt added the project was a collaborative effort throughout much of the City; it was a good partnership with the City.

Schmidt reported the bench is still forthcoming from the Rotary to complete the project; there is ongoing correspondence with the artist now.

#### **6. Dudley Carter *Dove Lady* – Report**

Schmidt reported that she and Skillingstead viewed the *Dove Lady* sculpture at Donna Miller's home. Schmidt will meet with the library art committee to inform them of the details in their consideration for purchase. Ms. Miller is willing to open her home to them to see the sculpture.

Schmidt noted the City has no funds to purchase the piece, but in the fall the City Hall project will be underway, possibly opening up funding. She assured Ms. Miller, however, that there were no guarantees of the City having funding for artwork for an indeterminate time.

#### **7. Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)**

The 3/29/04 Visual Arts Committee meeting was attended by Skillingstead, Houghton, Phil and Linda Teller, Tarapolsi and Schmidt.

##### **Agenda:**

- Dedication at Fire Station: Phil will speak/Jill will help with timeline
- Carter *Dove Lady*: Jill will schedule visit with owner
- Letter to Mayor about Art Outside the Box: Must send by 3/31. Explain reasons why project will be put on hold
- Selection of Bus Shelter artists: The committee recommended artists from <http://www.culturaldevelopment.org/publicart/ambp/catalogue/> to the selection committee for Transportation
- Artists selected:
  - Phillip Baldwin
  - Jean Behnke
  - J&D Caldwell
  - Meredith MacLeod
  - Ries Niemi
  - Virginia Paquette

- Maya Radoczy
- R. Ellen Sollod
- Michele Van Slyke

## **B. Funding/Marketing**

None

## **C. New Business**

None

## **D. Staff Reports**

### **1. Firefighter's Plaza Funding/Bench**

Skillingstead reported she sent a memo to City Council to receive the donation from the Rotary for the plaza bench, which was approved. Staff will be moving forward with that process.

## **IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. Discussion**

- **Next month's RAC meeting theme:** Per Chair Teller's request, each month a Commissioner will announce a theme for the following month's RAC meeting. April 2004's meeting theme as announced by Houghton will be *Elmo's World*.

### **B. Correspondence:**

- EFA posters of their member show next month (Skillingstead asked Commissioners to take them for around town distribution)
- Redwood Theatre marketing materials
- Two letters from SecondStory Repertory, praising RAC for the Organizational Support Grant they received

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie

**Second by:** Commissioner Cochran

**Motion carried:** 7-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:**

**May 13, 2004**

**Council Chambers, Public Safety Building**

**Televised meeting**

**7:00 p.m.**

# Redmond Arts Commission

**Meeting: April 8, 2004**

## **Audience Present**

*Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.*

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Doe Stahr	9511 168 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	883-7951